

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22 to page 7, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

However, it is this availability of the second path that enables an upgrade to take place without disruption in service. To accomplish the upgrade, the second optical filter 114, which may be an upgraded filter relative to the first optical filter 112, may be placed and connected to the second output 110b of the through path coupler 108. When connected, the second optical filter 114 receives and processes the second through optical signal. Recall that the second through optical signal may be ~~identical~~ identical to the first through optical signal.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 11 to page 12, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

However, other OADMs may include spectral filters 600a, 600b, and 600c such as illustrated in Figures 6a-6c. Figure 6a illustrates a generalized blocking filter (BF) 600a which receives as optical input a spectrum of wavelengths represented by the symbol λ . The BF 600a blocks a subset of the spectrum and outputs

the remainder (or complementary set) of the wavelengths of the spectrum. Whereas the BF 600a blocks an arbitrary portions of the spectrum, Figure 6b illustrates a BF 600b which only allows a contiguous portion of the spectrum to pass through. The BF 600b may be viewed as a particular case of the general BF 600a. Figure 6c illustrates a reconfigurable blocking filter (RBF) 600c wherein the particular wavelengths blocked may be chosen through control signals. A description of a particular type of RBF may be found in a provisional application __/__,__, Attorney Docket ~~4450-0403P~~ 4450-0394P, filed August 4, 2003 by the common Assignee of the present application and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.